



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Chair
Madeleine Coil

Vice Chair
Irene Garza

Members
Lisa Lemos
Pilar Moreno
Ricardo Perez
Susan Pond
Coranne Swift Arrow
Francisco Vargas
Judy Watkinson
Dr. Mario Ybarra
Vacant

June 4, 2010

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board
First Things First
4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board:

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council (Regional Council) is pleased to present for your review and consideration; a new strategy for SFY2011 that was approved by the Regional Council at their May 20, 2010 meeting. The Regional Council has identified the impact the current economic downturn has had on the stability of families and the overall economic viability of the early care and education system within the region as a major concern. As part of the Emergency Response Plan, the Yuma Region was allocated \$936,276 for Emergency Child Care Scholarships. In December 2009, the Regional Council allocated an additional \$500,000, although the allocation would not cover all of the scholarships awarded in the community, they were able to respond to the continued need.

The Regional Council envisions a continuum of services for children birth through age five. The SFY2011 Funding Plan for our region includes a Strategy for Pre-K expansion leaving a gap for infant and toddler children. The proposed Child Care Tuition Scholarship Strategy will target infant and toddler children in our region. This strategy is designed to not only make quality early care services more affordable for families but to assist with stabilizing programs in our region. Having stable, high quality early care is vitally important to children's development, health and safety and therefore our council determined that the scholarships will only be made available to programs fully enrolled in the Quality First program. The proposed allocation will serve only a small portion of the families needing child care (approximately 94-96 scholarships), however it is the hope of the Regional Council that this effort will assist families to maintain stability in their child's life while also stabilizing enrollment in the Quality First centers to protect investment during this economic difficult time. The Regional Council further believes that child care should be viewed as a valuable commodity, it should not be provided free of charge and that families should be required to assist with a portion of the cost. The Regional Council proposes to utilize a formula based on the current 2008 Child Care Market Rate Survey. The amount of the scholarship will be set at 80% of the 75th percentile that child care providers charge for this region.

The Regional Council unanimously approved utilizing \$500,000 from unobligated money from SFY 2010 toward this strategy. The Regional Council understands that this funding may not be available at the end of SFY2011 to continue funding this strategy and will reevaluate the continued need as planning for SFY2012 takes place.

We respectfully request approval of this new strategy to allow for the implementation of this strategy on July 1, 2010.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Coil
Yuma Regional Partnership Chair

Yuma Regional Partnership Council



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Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board:

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council (Regional Council) is pleased to present for your review and consideration a recommendation unanimously reached by our council to allow for a 1% increase in the funded renewal amount for the following strategies;

- Strategy 5 Professional Development: Annualized budget with a 1% increase equals a total funding amount of \$133,320. This strategy would receive an increase of \$1,320.
- Strategy 7 Family Support/Parent Awareness and Education: This strategy encompasses four programs as well as funding obligated to this strategy, but not expended for a total of \$1,469,521. This strategy would receive an increase of \$6,010. Total allocation for this strategy would be \$1,475,531.
- Strategy 8 Early Prenatal Care Awareness and Access: This strategy would receive an additional \$5,365 for total funding of \$541,925 to reach 75% of the targeted population.

The purpose of this increase is to compensate the affected grantees for the increased costs of their operations. We respectfully request approval for the 1% increase to the above mentioned strategies to allow for implementation to begin on July 1, 2010. Total increase for these strategies would be \$12,695.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Coil
Yuma Regional Partnership Chair



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

YUMA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL 2011 FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY

Revised May 20, 2010

Regional Allocation 2011: \$ 5,368,928

Carry Forward from 2010: \$ 1,001,139

Funding Available for Allocation in 2011: \$ 6,370,067

Prioritized Needs	Goal Area	Proposed Strategies	Portion of Regional Allocation	Recommendation to the Board
Critical shortage of therapeutic services for children identified with special needs	Health Professional Development	#1. Recruitment and Retention of Therapists	\$192,500	Approved 1.26.10
Limited capacity of qualified early childhood education programs to include and serve children with special health and/or developmental needs.	Quality, Access & Affordability	#2. Promoting Inclusive Settings (Early Care and Education)	\$231,000	Approved 1.26.10
Limited support for families of children at risk for developmental delay.	Family Support	#3. Parent Coaching	\$280,000	Approved 1.26.10
Limited training and loss of a well educated and prepared Early Childhood Development and Health workforce.	Professional Development	#4. TEACH	\$153,570	Approved 1.26.10
Limited continuing education availability for a well educated and prepared Early Childhood Development and Health workforce.	Professional Development	#5. Professional Development	\$133,320	Recommend Approval
Lack of coordination of local resources for delivery of streamlined early childhood development and health services.	Coordination	#6. Coordination	\$0	Not being submitted for board approval
Lack of current information on early childhood development and health for parents.	Family Support	#7. Family Support-Parent Awareness and Education	\$1,475,531	Recommend Approval
Lack of access to and awareness of importance of early prenatal care.	Family Support	#8. Early Prenatal Care-Awareness and Access	\$541,925	Recommend Approval

Limited center based enrollment opportunities for school readiness preparation of children entering kindergarten.	Quality, Access & Affordability	#9a. Pre-K Expansion	\$950,400	Approved 1.26.10
Limited center based enrollment opportunities for school readiness preparation of children entering kindergarten.	Quality, Access & Affordability	#9b. Child Care Scholarships	\$500,000	Recommend Approval
Increase regulated home based opportunities.	Quality, Access & Affordability	#10. Home Based Provider Recruitment	\$45,500	Approved 1.26.10
Increase knowledge of the importance of investing in early childhood development and health	Communications	#11. Communications	\$208,000	HOLD
Expand the availability of Child Care Health Consultation	Health	#12. Child Care Health Consultation	\$240,000	Approved 1.26.10
Expand the number of center and home care providers in Yuma Region participating in Quality First.	Quality, Access & Affordability	#13. Quality First	\$494,500	Approved 1.26.10
Increase the number of childcare providers applying for a Child Development Associate's credential	Professional Development	#14. Professional Career Pathway Project	\$77,000	Approved 1.26.10
Lack of access to mental health consultation.	Health	#15. Mental Health Consultation	\$120,000	Approved 1.26.10
Limited access to preventative oral health care.	Health	#16. Oral Health	\$303,266	Approved 1.26.10
	Evaluation	Evaluation	\$30,000	Not being submitted for approval at this time
		Subtotal of Expenditures	\$5,976,512	
		Fund Balance	\$393,555	
		Grand Total	\$6,370,067	

	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012	Total
			ESTIMATED	
Revenue				
Total Allocation for the SFY	\$5,684,714	\$5,368,928	\$5,368,928	\$16,422,570
Fund Balance (carry forward from previous SFY)	N/A	\$1,001,139	\$393,555	
Total Available Funds	\$5,684,714	\$6,370,067	\$5,762,483	
	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012	Total
	OBLIGATED	PROPOSED	ESTIMATED	
1. Recruitment and Retention of Therapists	\$137,500	\$192,500	\$194,425	\$524,425
2 Promoting Inclusive Settings	\$57,750	\$231,000	\$233,310	\$522,060
3 Parent Coaching	\$50,428	\$280,000	\$323,200	\$653,628
4 TEACH	\$152,400	\$153,570	\$155,236	\$461,206
5 Professional Development	\$110,000	\$133,320	\$133,320	\$376,640
6 Coordination	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
7 Family Support-Parent Awareness and Education	\$468,436	\$1,475,531	\$1,484,216	\$3,428,183
8 Early Prenatal Care-Awareness and Access	\$261,318	\$541,925	\$541,926	\$1,345,169
9a Pre-K Expansion	\$325,300	\$950,400	\$959,904	\$2,235,604
9b Child Care Scholarships	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
10 Home Based Provider Incentives	\$45,500	\$45,500	\$45,955	\$136,955
11 Communications	\$208,000	\$208,000	\$210,080	\$626,080
12 Child Care Health Consultation	\$210,732	\$240,000	\$242,400	\$693,132
13 Quality First	\$366,000	\$494,500	\$499,455	\$1,359,955
14 Professional Career Pathway Project	\$77,000	\$77,000	\$77,770	\$231,770
15 Mental Health Consultation	\$0	\$120,000	\$121,200	\$241,200
16 Oral Health	\$0	\$303,266	\$306,299	\$609,565
Emergency Food Boxes	\$24,000	\$0	\$0	\$24,000
Emergency Scholarships	\$1,436,276	\$0	\$0	\$1,436,276
Expedited Home Visitation	\$727,935	moved to # 7	moved	\$727,935
Needs and Assets	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
Evaluation	0	30,000	0	\$30,000
Subtotal Expenditures	\$4,683,575	\$5,976,512	\$5,528,696	\$16,188,783
Fund Balance (carry forward)	\$1,001,139	\$393,555	\$233,787	
Total	\$5,684,714	\$6,370,067	\$5,762,483	

Strategy #9b. Child Care Scholarships:

Strategy Description:

The Yuma Regional Council has identified the need to support working families who are facing economic challenges by developing a child care scholarship program aimed at assisting families in not only accessing but retaining quality care for their infants and toddlers. The intent of this strategy is to expand options for families needing out of home care for their children. The Yuma Regional Council recognizes that high quality care, especially for infants and toddlers, is more expensive and scholarships will assist families to offset the cost of quality care at a time when many families are faced with economic challenges. The high cost of early care and education is one of the most difficult obstacles to obtaining and maintaining employment for many low-income and single-parent families. Without access to quality care, working families may be forced to quit their jobs or leave their children in care that is not their primary choice.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the Yuma region gained 221 jobs in March of 2010, while the unemployment rate rose to 19.9% compared to 9.6% for the state of Arizona and 9.7% for the nation as a whole. The U.S. Bureau of Labor reported that Yuma/El Centro had the second highest unemployment rate in the nation in March of 2010. Scholarships can support families who are employed, seeking employment, or who are improving their skills by participating in training or education programs to better compete in the market place. It is the intent of this council to provide economic support, by reducing the cost for high quality early care and education for families seeking out of home care for their infants and toddlers. The Yuma Regional Council seeks to assist with the cost of quality care not to provide care free of cost to families. Therefore, the Yuma Regional Council will utilize a formula based on the current 2008 Child Care Market Rate Survey. The amount of the scholarship will be set at 80% of the 75th percentile that child care providers charge in this region, leaving a potential co-pay for the family to contribute, but minimizing the cost and providing options for quality care.

The Yuma Regional Council believes that early care and education of high quality is vitally important to children's development, health and safety. It is for this reason that the Yuma Regional Council has determined that eligibility for scholarships will be made available if the provider/program meets the following criteria:

- The program provides early care and education services to children birth through age 3;
- The program is in good standing with their certifying, licensing or regulatory authority; and,
- The program demonstrates a commitment to quality by being fully enrolled as a Quality First participant. The program must be committed to maintain active participation in meeting the goals of the Quality Improvement Plan.
- Programs that provide all-day, all-week, year-round services and, where possible, extended/evening hours should receive priority to meet the needs of working families.

Priorities for families to receive the scholarships will be based on the following criteria:

- Families that are employed, actively seeking employment, or participating in training or school to compete in the labor market.
- Families with income less than 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Scholarships will be targeted to serve the most vulnerable families/children, such as:
 1. Children with special needs

2. Children in single parent families 3. Children not already receiving assistance from another source (i.e. Head Start, Department of Economic Security, Early Childhood Block Grant, etc.)			
Lead Goal: Quality and Access Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FTF will increase access to quality early care and education programs and settings. • FTF will increase availability and affordability of early care and education programs and settings. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Measures Total number of children enrolled and vacancies in regulated early care and education programs as a proportion of total population of children birth through age three. • Current cost of early care and education for families as a proportion of the median income for a family of four. 			
Target Population (Description of the population to reach): The strategy will target the population of families in our region with children birth through age three. Additionally, priority will be given to families with infant and toddlers that meet the following criteria; households earning at or below 200% FPL who are employed, under-employed, or unemployed and are actively seeking employment, or who are attending job training, or college level courses with intent of improving their employment prospects.			
Proposed Service Numbers	SFY2011 July 1, 2010 -June 30, 2011	SFY2012 July 1, 2011– June 30, 2012	
	94-96 Infant/Toddler Scholarships	94-96 Infant/Toddler Scholarships	
Performance Measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total number of families receiving the scholarship/month 2. Total number of children receiving the scholarship/month 			
SFY2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy:			
Population-based Allocation for proposed strategy		\$ 500,000	

Budget Justification:

Child Care Tuition Scholarships for Infants and Toddlers:

A total of \$500,000 has been allocated for this strategy, the subtraction of the Administrative rate leaves approximately \$473,800 for scholarships.

Administrative Home: Approximately \$26,200

An Administrative home will be responsible for overseeing the progress of the program, which includes not only fiscal responsibilities but assisting providers to determine eligibility of families, conducting random audits for compliance and assistance with maintenance of required documents. The cost is calculated based on the Arizona allowable rate of 10%, however this rate may change based on the Administrative Home identification.